

To The Federal Communications Commission,

I am writing to you both as a digital security activist and as a concerned citizen. As social media, video distribution, and digital publishing become more and more integral to the public sphere discussion of the United States and the world, the importance of access to free and equal internet services increases proportionally. The internet holds the same role as increased literacy and printing presses had during the Renaissance and Enlightenment, where they lead to vast increases in human knowledge and the concepts of government, rights, and equality that we use today. Regardless of the FCC's decision today, as the world adapts to the fairly recent advent of the Internet and network communication, new modes of living, doing business, and running government—far from even what we can comprehend today—will become commonplace. The question is merely *where* those innovations will occur.

Wall Street is under strict regulation to prevent unequitable access to trading, and the American public should receive that same protection for the internet services that they pay for. In this country, excess amounts of capital often allow individuals and entities to circumvent legal protections, silence dissent, and gain unfair business advantages that repeat the vicious cycle of capital accumulation. As we have seen since the Great Recession, those practices are not sustainable for the American economy. If net neutrality is revoked, the American Internet will become unattractive to citizens and corporations alike. As an example of this, The fastest growing American internet-technology companies, Facebook and Google, have both opposed revoking net neutrality.

Our internet infrastructure is already tenuous at best, especially in rural areas of the country, and with a lack of public and private support for its maintenance and improvement, America will swiftly fall behind other countries that place that same infrastructure at a premium value. The result of such disinterest will be systemic. The current vast trove of data that American corporations and government agencies collect from internet users across the world will dry up as internet traffic begins to route through other areas of the globe. While this vast collection of data is unethical at best, it is also one of the key things driving the growth of the American technology

sector. Without it, the deflationary effect on the American economy will be systemic and irreparable, as other countries capitalize on

In the interest of the country and its citizens, I ask you to maintain the FCC's commitments to an unbiased internet, one that operates as a public utility and promotes American industry and democracy.

Best,

—Samuel DiBella